

Manufacturing Career Pathway

MISSOURI ECONOMIC RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
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What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

Missouri Numbers:

-  **9,002 Employers**
-  **299,815 Workers**
-  **\$57,725 Average Wage**

Why Have a Career in Manufacturing?

Manufacturing creates the products people need and want. From clothing to computers, almost everything we touch throughout the day is manufactured. Manufacturing represents 12.5 percent of total private sector employment in Missouri, employing nearly 300,000 workers across 9,002 businesses in 2019. Employment in Manufacturing has been steadily growing, increasing by 1.6 percent per year from 2014 to 2019.

Missouri has high employment concentrations in Manufacturing, particularly in Leather and Allied Products and Transportation Equipment. Wages in Manufacturing averaged \$57,725 in 2019, higher than the \$51,139 state average for all industries.

Manufacturing encourages creativity and analytical thinking, with the opportunity for a meaningful and rewarding career with good pay and advancement in Production, Business Operations, and Engineering and Maintenance.

Know the Basics

Manufacturing is defined as the producers of durable and non-durable goods, and the industries that support them. Soft skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability, are important in all industries and occupations, including Manufacturing occupations. Manufacturing jobs can revolve around shifts and production quotas so dependability, along with being flexible when the situation demands, is a valued characteristic. Manufacturing careers can involve interactions with customers so customer service skills, such as being able to talk about benefits of a product or service, or accept criticism as a professional company representative, are important. Safety issues and quality control are also a critical part of this industry so attention to details and continuous learning are necessary.

Skills needed for Success:

In addition, Manufacturing has a set of industry-wide technical competencies that represent the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in this industry. Manufacturing process design and development, maintenance and repair, knowledge and compliance of government regulations, and the ability to adapt and consider new ways of doing things are some of the skills needed for success.

Who's Hiring in Missouri?

The Boeing Company
Bayer Corporation
Nestle USA Inc.
Burns & McDonnell
Thermo Fisher Scientific



Production

Now

Short-Term On-the-Job Training

Helpers-Production Workers
Entry: \$24,790; Average: \$30,550

Business Operations & Sales

Engineering & Maintenance

Certificates: Forklift Operator Certification

Customer Service Reps.
Entry: \$27,820; Average: \$35,910

Helpers-Installation, Maintenance, & Repair Workers
Entry: \$25,450; Average: \$35,880

Next

Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long- Term On-the-Job Training

Machine Operators
Entry: \$22-\$44K; Average: \$26-\$60K

Executive Administrative Assistants
Entry: \$39,970; Average: \$55,060

Industrial Machinery Mechanics
Entry: \$42,700; Average: \$54,690

First-Line Supervisors of Production Workers
Entry: \$44,220; Average: \$60,230

Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing
Entry: \$41,960; Average: \$69,410

Mechanical Drafter
Entry: \$42,950; Average: \$56,250

CNC Programmers
Entry: \$47,030; Average: \$60,440

Industrial Engineering Techs
Entry: \$40,470; Average: \$56,720

Certificates: Forklift Operator, Machine Operator, CNC Machinist Technology

Degrees: Business Administration & Management

Degrees: Engineering
Certificates: Industrial Maintenance, CAD Certificate

Later

Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

Industrial Production Managers
Entry: \$76,440; Average: \$104,990

General Operations Managers
Entry: \$53,390; Average: \$101,110

Mechanical Engineers
Entry: \$67,060; Average: \$85,750

Degrees: Engineering, Business Administration & Management

Sales Managers
Entry: \$84,800; Average: \$135,360

Electrical Engineers
Entry: \$76,230; Average: \$101,540

Purchasing Agents
Entry: \$45,110; Average: \$65,510

Industrial Engineers
Entry: \$68,540; Average: \$87,960

Degrees: Business Administration & Management, Marketing, Engineering, Logistics

Degrees: Engineering

Sources:

Burning Glass Technologies Labor/Insight™ tool

Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse

2019 Occupational Employment Survey Wage data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Top employers data is based on 2020 online job ads



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